

6.1. RECORDS AND REPORTS.

All wildfire incidents will be recorded in accordance with Army record management policy. Documentation of all wildfires is necessary to ensure accurate fire history and to assist fire managers in future fire management planning. The Range Division Wildland Fire Program Manager will maintain all wildfire records. Fire records will be kept in a database as part of long term land management records. It is important that fire records not be disposed of. Fire records will not be subject to Army limitations on record keeping and will be kept indefinitely.

6.1.1. USARHAW Wildland Fire Incident Report.

a. All wildfires on USARHAW land must be reported to Range Control or the Federal Fire Department by the most expeditious means available. Once reported to Range Control, each wildfire incident will be logged in and assigned a fire number and officially documented on the standard USARHAW Wildland Fire Incident Report (WFIR) form. A sample fire incident report form is included in the SOP for each FMA in Chapter 7.

b. The WFIR form is used to track location, size, and cause, and is necessary to compile a fire history and to conduct fire trend analysis for future input and use in Geographical Information Systems (GIS). The use of GIS software will enable the wildland fire manager to store, analyze, and display multiple layers of geographic information. GIS technology provides another tool for analyzing fire historical data that identifies when and where fires occurred, how many acres burned, the cost, and how they were started.

c. The Range Operations supervisor will review all WFIR forms for accuracy and proper completion. When complete, the WFIR form is submitted to the Wildland Fire Program Manager within 24 hours of the conclusion of the incident. The Wildland Fire Program Manager will store all WFIR forms for recordkeeping.

d. WFIR forms are required to be forwarded immediately to the Wildland Fire Program Manager and the IFSO when four or more hectares (10 acres) have burned and/or when unusual events have occurred, including:

- (1) All fires escaping or starting outside designated firebreak roads.
- (2) Damage to or loss of property exceeding \$1000.00.
- (3) Damage to or loss of an environmental BSA, SEA, or threatened or endangered specie. In this event, a report must also be sent to the DPW Environmental Office. The Chief of the Environmental Office shall decide if the report needs to be immediately forwarded to the USFWS.
- (4) All personnel entrapments or fire shelter deployments.
- (5) Major injuries or fire fatalities, or when emergency rescue operations are conducted.
- (6) Failure to follow range SOPs or policy.

6.1.2. Federal Fire Department Reports. The Federal Fire Department will submit incident reports completed in the appropriate format, as determined the FFD, to the Wildland Fire Program Manager after each incident for compiling and storage.

6.1.3. Fire Report to U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS).

a. The DPW Environmental Office will submit a wildland fire report summary to the USFWS no later than 10 January and 10 July of each calendar year that includes fire reports for every fire that occurred in the last six months on USARHAW lands. In addition, records and reports for all fire incidents within or near BSA/SEA shall be shared with the USFWS as soon as possible after a fire.

b. Prescribed fire annual evaluation and review will be submitted to the USFWS.

6.2. REVIEWS & FORMAL INVESTIGATIONS.

6.2.1. Informal Reviews.

a. All wildland and prescribed fires will be informally reviewed. All informal reviews will be conducted as constructive critiques aimed at determining the facts related to the specific fire. Reviews are intended to resolve operational issues, not impose punitive actions. Reviews are also conducted for the following purposes:

(1) To examine the progress of an ongoing fire incident and to confirm effectiveness of decisions or to correct deficiencies.

(2) To identify new or improved procedures, techniques, or tactics.

(3) To determine the cost effectiveness of a fire operation.

b. Informal reviews can be conducted by the Range Officer and/or the Wildland Fire Program Manager and will serve as sufficient documentation of an informal review on fires less than four hectares (ten acres) in which no unusual events occurred.

c. After Action Reviews (AAR). Following a major wildfire incident, the Wildland Fire Program Manager may conduct an AAR immediately after containing the fire. The AAR may be included as a portion of the WFIR.

6.2.2. Formal Investigations.

a. The Installation Commander will decide at the conclusion of any major incidents if a formal investigation is necessary. The commander may base this decision on advice or recommendations from the fire investigator(s), the Range Officer, the Provost Marshal, the Staff Judge Advocate, Inspector General, or the Chief of the Environmental office. If the Installation Commander deems a formal investigation is required, an investigating officer or review board shall be assigned to conduct a formal investigation. Formal investigations will be done in accordance with Army Regulation (AR) 15-6, "Procedures for Investigating Officers and Board Officers". The Installation Commander shall review the findings and recommendations of the assigned investigating officer or review board.

b. Normal post-fire investigations (similar to structural fires) may be conducted by the Wildland Fire Program Manager, the IFSO (acting as the Command Fire Marshal), or the Federal Fire Chief. All three offices should act together to form a team to investigate and determine the cause of the fire. A qualified fire investigating officer should head this investigation team.

6.3 POST-FIRE ANALYSIS.

6.3.1. Surveys.

a. Besides reports and reviews that are completed after a wildfire, a post-fire survey of the burned area may be required depending on the fire's location and vegetation damaged. The post-fire analysis may be combined with any of the informal or formal investigations. A post-fire analysis will need to determine either all or some of the following:

(1) The effect the fire may have had on native or alien natural flora and fauna resources and cultural resources.

(2) The effectiveness of the pre-suppression measures to include fuels modifications.

(3) The effectiveness of the suppression measures used.

(4) The effectiveness of the ICS.

(5) The effectiveness of fire/fuel models used.

(6) Safety review of suppression actions.

(7) UXO contamination or potential for UXO clean up operations.

b. A post-fire survey of the fire area will be conducted with the coordination of the DPW Environmental and ITAM offices.

c. The effects of fire on threatened and endangered species or effects from catastrophic fire events must be surveyed at the earliest possible time. Soliciting support from other cooperators or contracting subject matter experts is highly encouraged due to limited staffing and fire technical expertise available within USARHAW.

d. If during the survey it becomes evident that a wildfire has affected a BSA/SEA or threatened any endangered species, the USFWS and the State of Hawaii DOFAW will be notified. If the wildfire was determined to be caused by military activities, then the Army will reinitiate Section 7 consultation under the ESA.

e. If a UXO survey is desired, then coordination with the Explosive Ordnance Disposal unit is necessary. Surveys must be planned and coordinated and should be done immediately after a fire.

6.3.2. Analysis. Post-fire analysis will be made to determine the effects of the fire. This analysis can be long term and be incorporated into normal land/natural resource condition studies. Data should be gathered to the extent possible and shared with other cooperating agencies to better understand the fire ecology within the FMAs.

6.3.3. Post-Fire Restoration. Large fires may require post-fire restoration, rehabilitation, and revegetation. Large scale revegetation of burned areas is not feasible. There is currently no available data on successful revegetation of a burned area in Hawaii. Revegetation of selected locations and for experimental purposes may be attempted. Initiatives for study include conducting research into the possible use of less flammable vegetation along burned fire/fuelbreak roads to help expand the fuelbreaks and reduce the risk of fires escaping.